

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5501**  
August 19, 2015

**872**

WCB- Connect  
America- Broadband  
Coverage

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I appreciate the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") to facilitate the deployment of broadband in insular areas such as the United States Virgin Islands ("USVI"). As the Commission has recognized previously, broadband providers serving insular areas face unique challenges that are not easily overcome.

These challenges are magnified for the Virgin Islands Telephone Corp. d/b/a Innovative Telephone ("Innovative"), which is seeking Commission review of a February 2015 decision by the Wireline Competition Bureau denying Innovative a waiver that would ensure the use of accurate data in calculating Innovative's high cost loop support for 2011 and frozen support under the Connect America Fund. This issue has a significant financial impact on Innovative and the USVI. It is my understanding that the waiver would mean more than \$600,000 in annual support that would help high-speed broadband deployment in the USVI.

I am also concerned that denial of Innovative's waiver petition could adversely impact the sale process in which the company's owner – National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation ("CFC") – is currently engaged. CFC bought Innovative in 2010 with the express understanding that it would sell the company after making substantial investments to rebuild the network. That sale process is underway, and a denial of Innovative's waiver petition could make the company less financially desirable.

I respectfully urge that the Commission promptly make a decision on the waiver requested by Innovative. If you would like to contact me concerning this matter, I can be reached at (202) 225-1790 or a member of your staff can reach Ms. Angeline M. Jabbar in my office at (202) 226-7978.

Sincerely,



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 2, 2015

The Honorable Stacey Plaskett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
509 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Plaskett:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take prompt action act on an Application for Review filed by Virgin Islands Telephone Corp. d/b/a Innovative Telephone (Innovative). Innovative is seeking review of the Wireline Competition Bureau's February 24, 2015, Order that denied its request for waiver of the National Exchange Carrier Association's rolling 24-month adjustment period for filing financial, loop, and cost-study data, as well as to recalculate the carrier's high cost loop support for January to December 2011. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As you note, Innovative filed its Application for Review on March 20, 2015. Commission staff is actively reviewing the issues raised by Innovative. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the views and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler

Enclosure